

# FRACTURED WATER



'A river once whole, now broken, buried, and forgotten beneath the city it gave life to.'

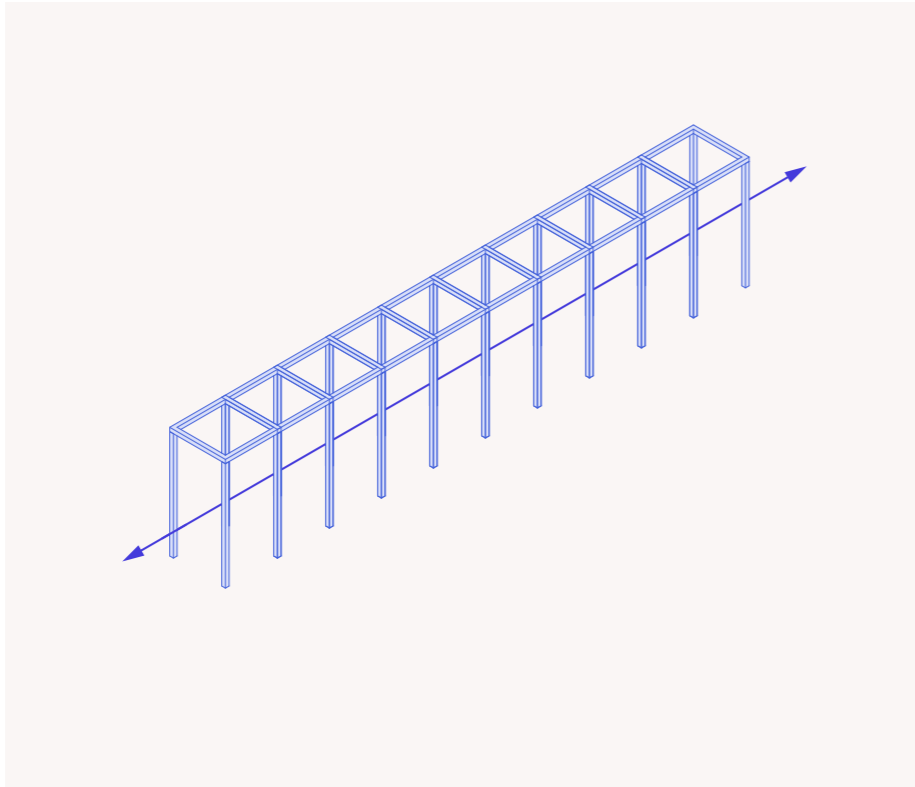


# Design Ethos

## The Source

The Farset begins as a quiet rhythm, a canon of motion — its waters threading through the landscape in a continuous dialogue of flow and renewal.

Each bend, surge, and confluence builds strength, echoing the city's origins in its movement towards the Lagan. The river's cadence becomes a metaphor for continuity: a timeless pulse shaping both land and life.

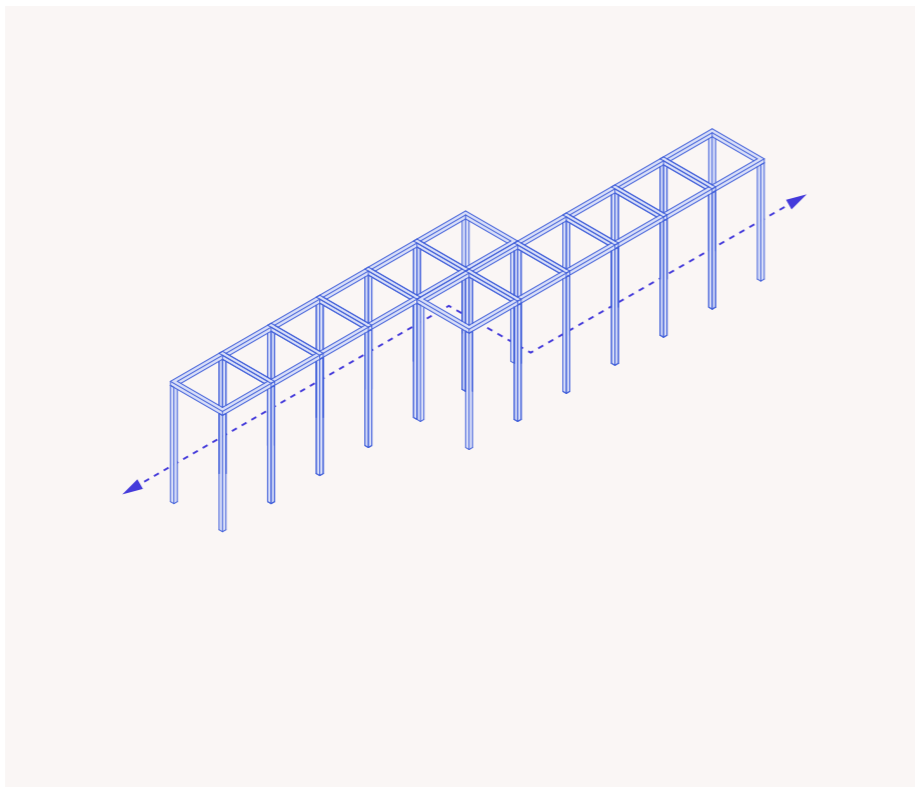


Canon

## The Fracture

In the pursuit of progress, the Farset was divided — its course interrupted, its voice subdued beneath the rising geometry of the modern city.

This fracture marks both loss and transformation: a moment where the organic rhythm of the river collided with the ordered fabric of urban ambition. What once connected now lies severed, reshaped into the foundations of Belfast itself.



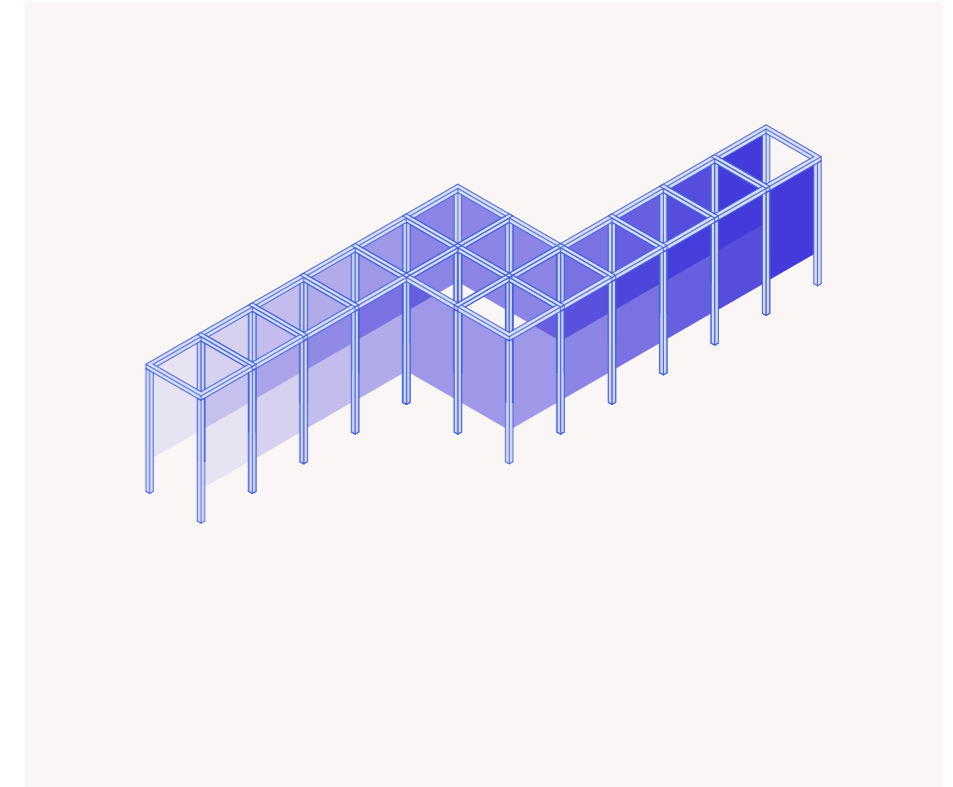
Fracture

## The Culvert

Entombed in stone and steel, the Farset slips beneath the surface — unseen, yet still flowing.

Hidden within culverts and shadows, it becomes a secret current, a whispered presence beneath the city's streets.

This act of concealment transforms the river from a visible form into an invisible force, a buried memory still tracing the contours of its original path.



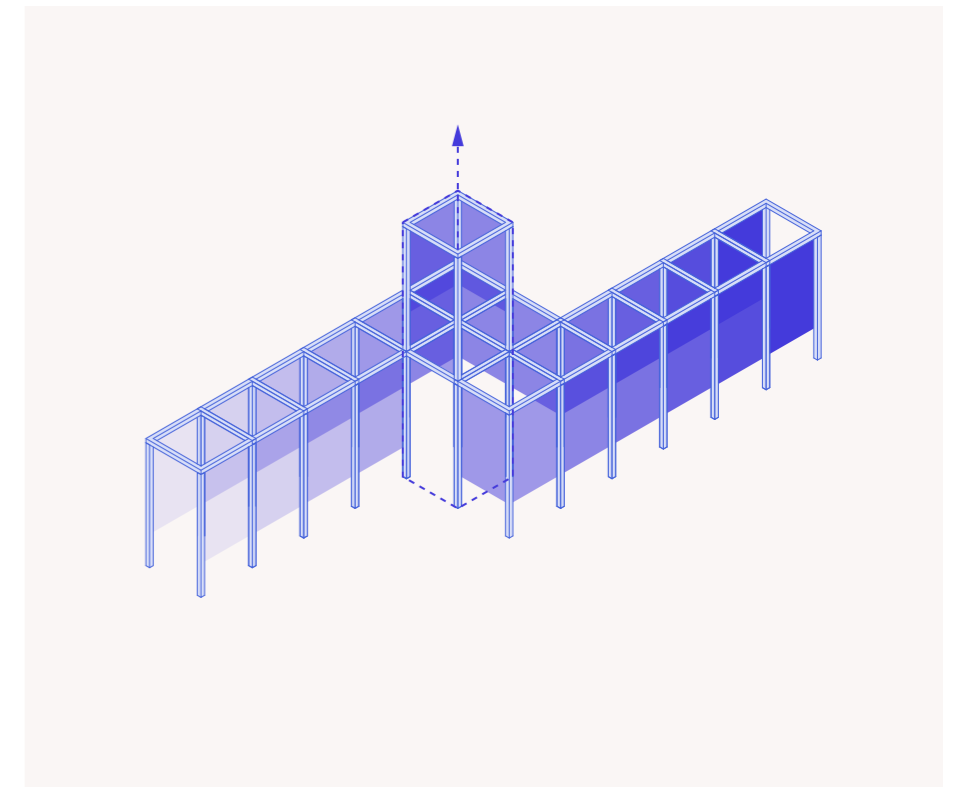
Conceal

## The Legacy

Though obscured, the Farset endures in the city's texture — in the alignment of streets, the pattern of industry, the rhythm of craftsmanship.

Its legacy is not just in water, but in making: in the mills, warehouses, and settlements that grew from its banks.

The river's absence becomes its monument, a silent scar that continues to shape Belfast's identity and flow through its collective memory.



Legacy



Fractured Water re-imagines Belfast's lost River Farset as both subject and symbol.

A river once whole, now broken, buried, and forgotten beneath the city it gave life to.



The pavilion traces this story of fracture: how the Farset, once a continuous flow from mountain to estuary, has been divided, contained, and obscured by layers of concrete and time.

In form and experience, the pavilion mirrors this fragmentation. Its architecture is composed of shifting, fractured planes surfaces that open, split, and fold inward like tectonic plates, echoing the way the river has been forced underground in pieces. The visitor's journey through the pavilion becomes a walk along the river's disrupted path: from open, connected waters to a darkened, fragmented channel.





The pavilion tells the story of the River Farset through space and form, tracing its journey from open source to hidden flow.

Visitors begin in “The Source – Open Sky,” an airy timber structure shaped like a mountain spring where rainwater runs visibly through roof channels and gutters.

Moving onward into “The Channel – Urban Flow,” the space tightens and rises, its wooden ribs enclosing visitors as light cools and dims, mirroring the river’s passage through the city.

Finally, in “The Culvert – The Buried River,” the pavilion closes in almost completely; water sounds fade to a distant echo and a single thin stream glides beneath a grated floor, a quiet reminder of the Farset’s hidden presence beneath Belfast, guiding visitors toward the light and the Lagan beyond.



The design exposes ruptures, the physical and emotional disconnection between people and the living systems beneath their feet. Light and sound fracture too: sunlight filters through layers of metal and timber, scattering like reflections on broken water; recorded voices and distant water sounds echo from separate chambers, never fully coherent.

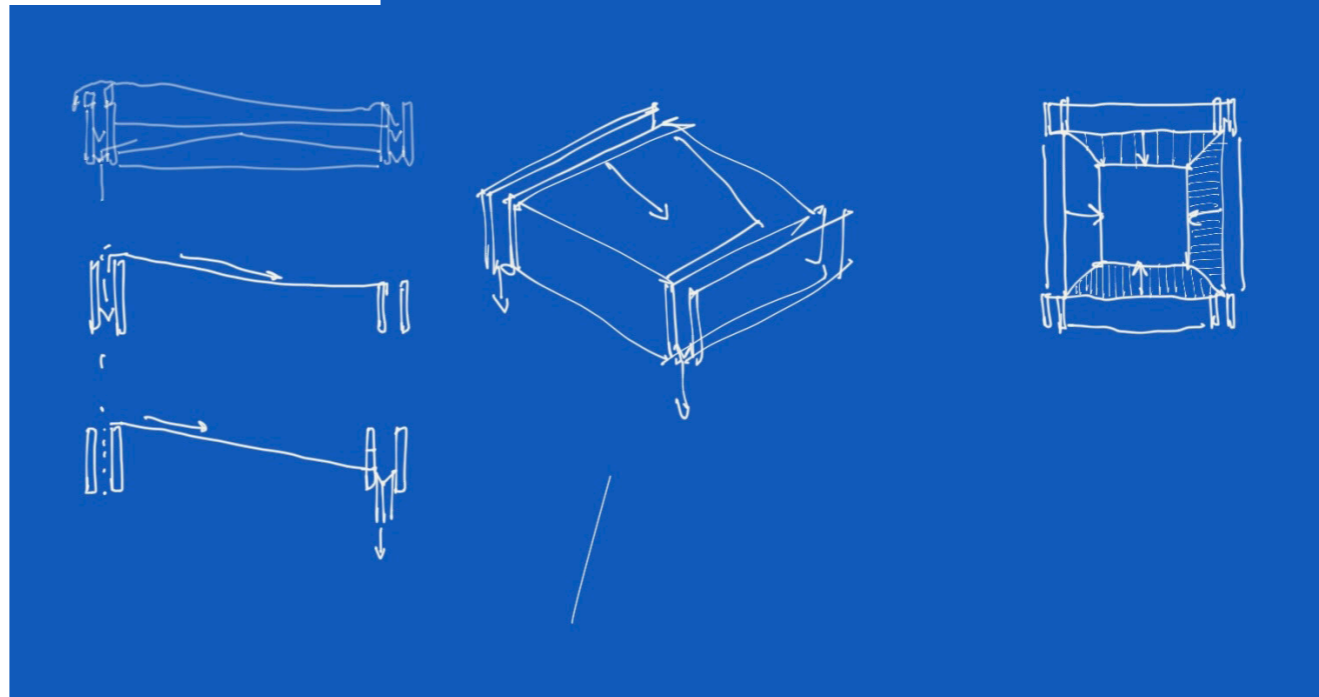
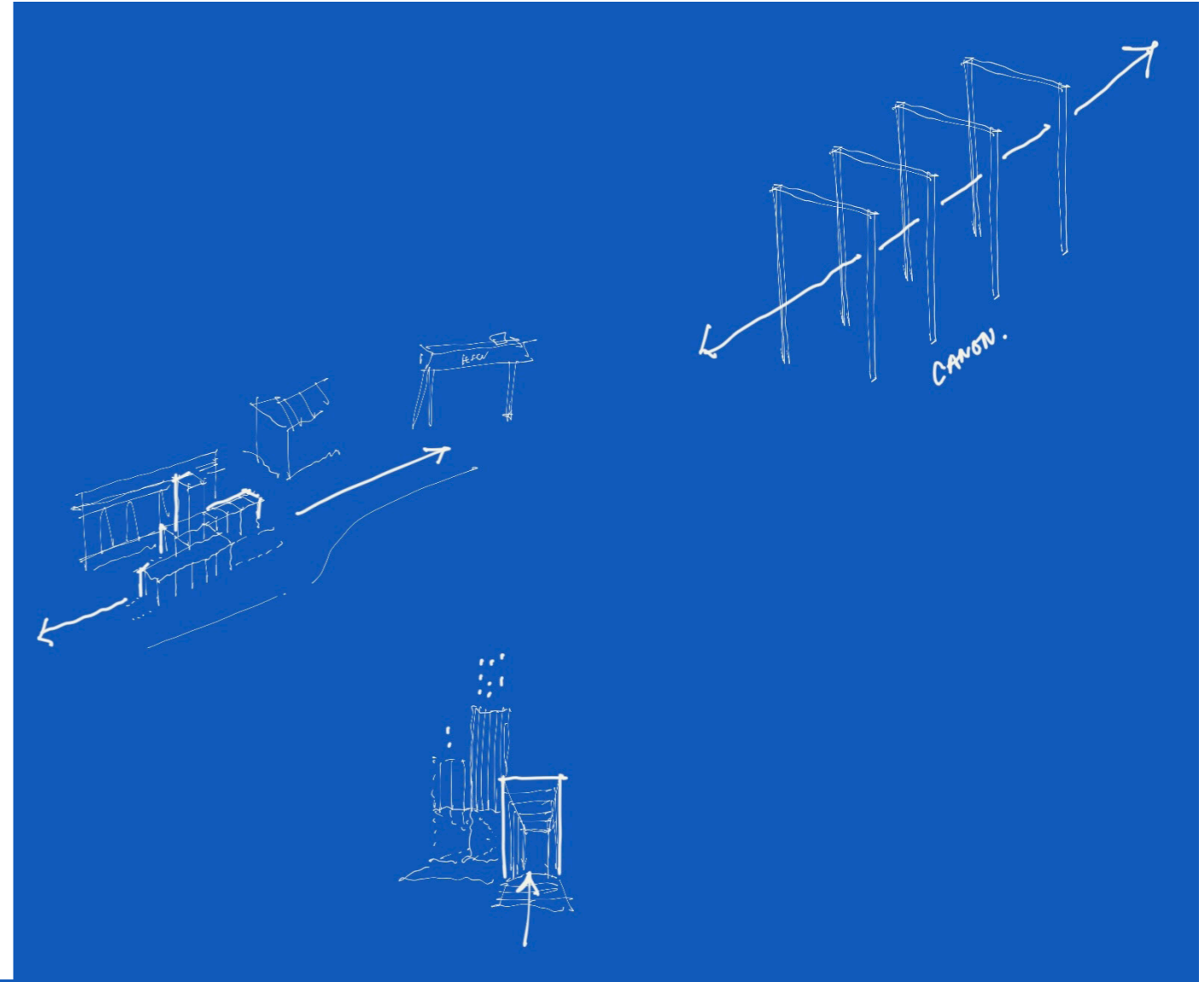
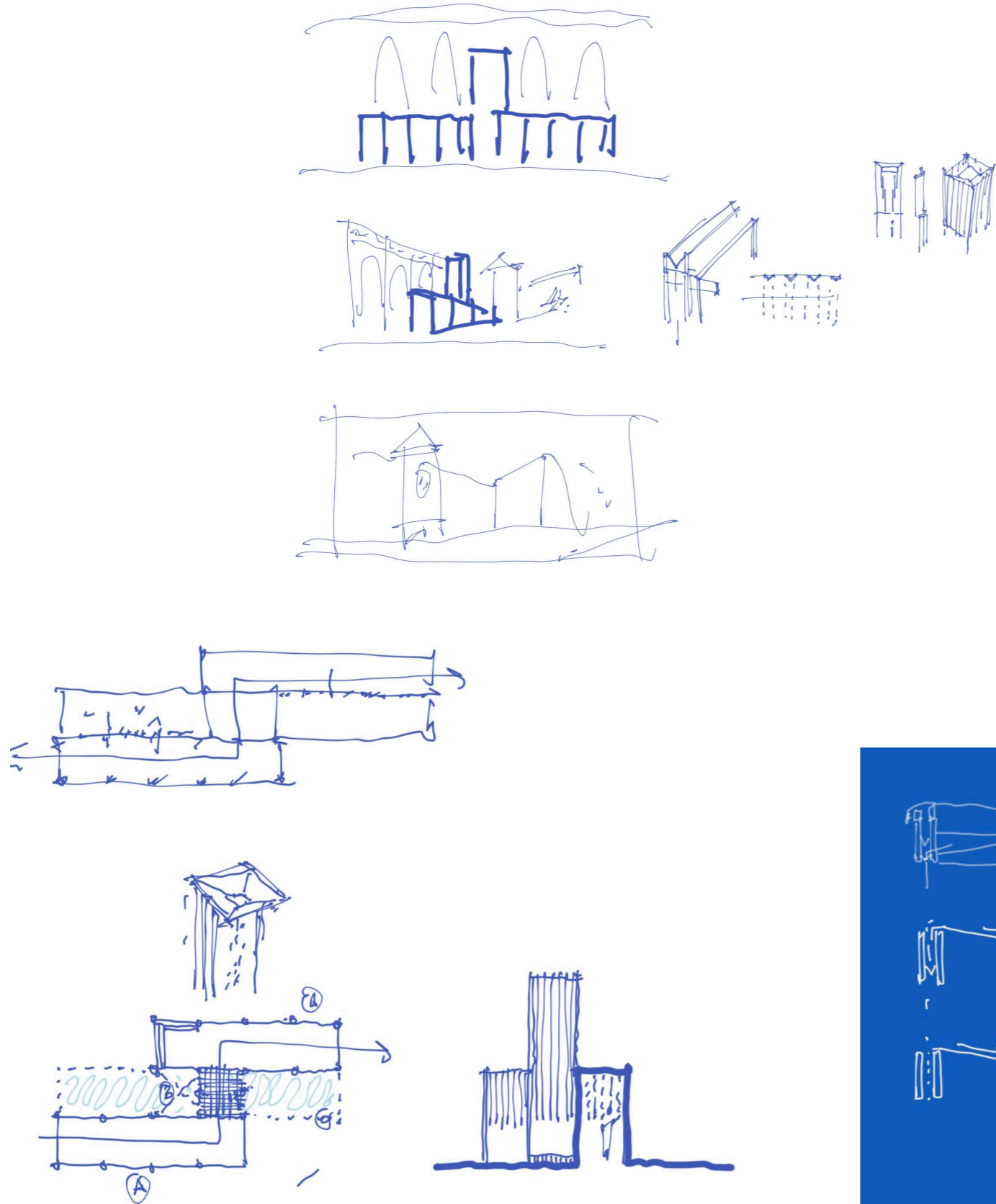
The installation invites reflection on how our relationship with water has been splintered by neglect and control - and how these fractures might one day be healed. Beneath the city’s pavements, the Farset still flows, unseen but unbroken, a reminder that water endures even when forgotten.

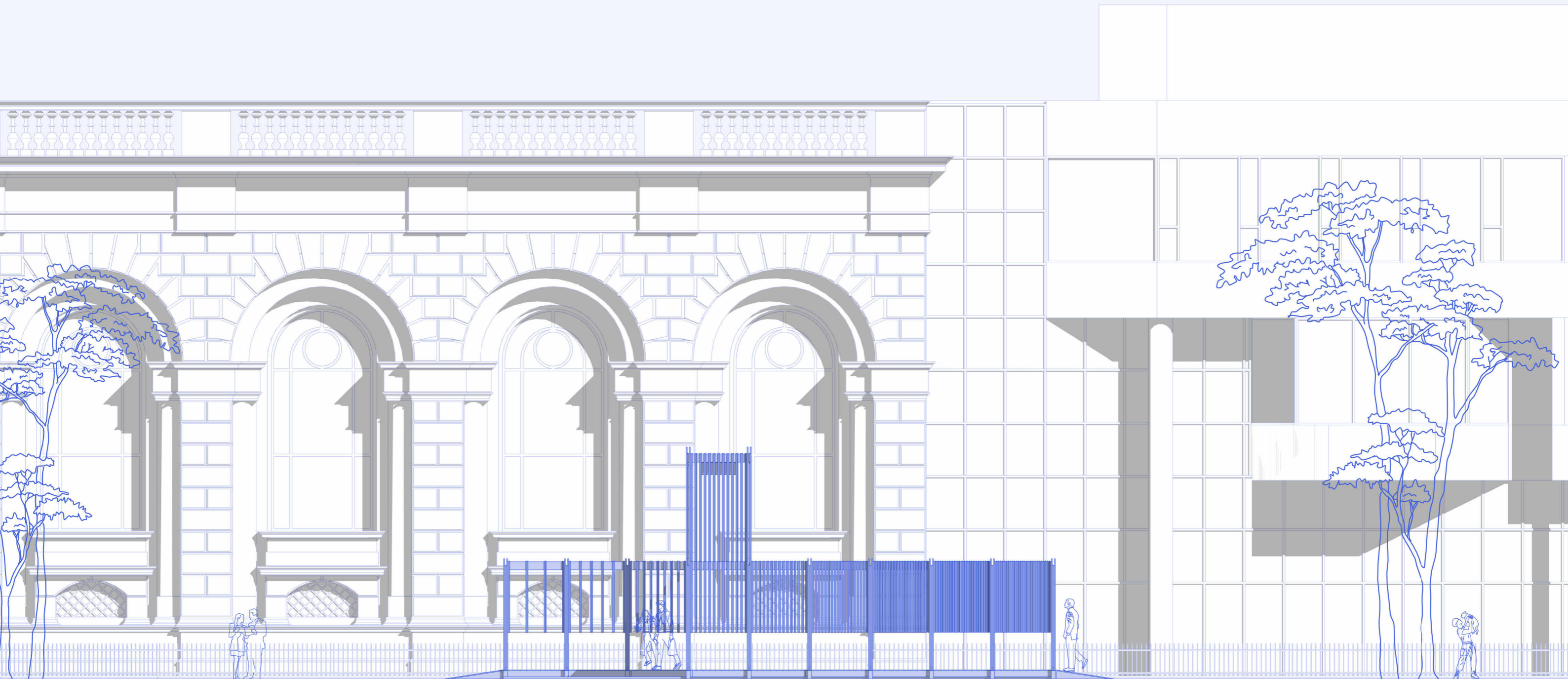
Fractured Water seeks to make visible the invisible; to reveal the hidden fractures beneath Belfast’s surface, and to inspire a renewed awareness of how we might reconnect with the waters that shaped our place, our history, and our future.



Fractured Water is a spatial poem to a forgotten river, a reminder that beneath our streets, water still moves, breathes, and sustains life.

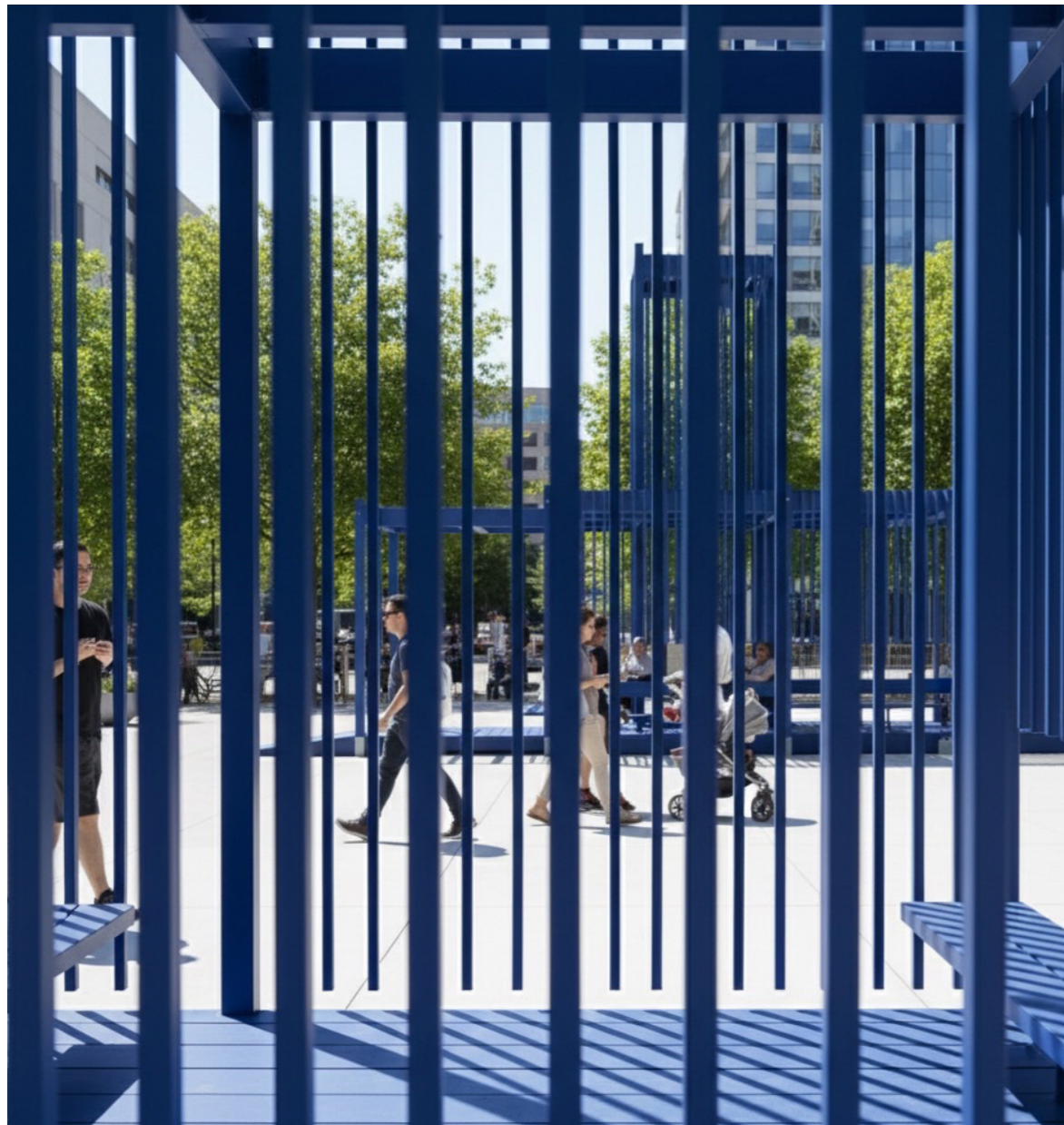
# Explorations











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“Éist le fuaim na habhainn agus  
gheobhaidh breac.”

*Listen to the river's sound and you will get a trout*